



GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2005 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 148

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

The following bill was reported to the House from the Senate and ordered to be printed.

RECEIVED AND FILED
DATE March 11, 2005
1:23 pm

TREY GRAYSON
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY Hardie Adkinson

AN ACT relating to the official theatre pipe organ of Kentucky.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

1 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ is the sole
2 remaining theatre pipe organ originally installed in a theatre in the Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, the theatre organ is a uniquely American musical invention, designed
4 and constructed to provide sound accompaniment in the silent era of motion pictures; and

5 WHEREAS, between 1910 and the 1930s, there were nearly 7,000 theatre organs
6 across the United States performing each day for motion pictures; and

7 WHEREAS, soon after sound came to motion pictures, these theatre organs were
8 abandoned, discarded, given away, or left to languish dormant in their theatres, leaving at
9 the present time approximately 125 theatre organs in public venues nationally; and

10 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Theatre's Wurlitzer organ was initially installed in 1922
11 and, when it was enlarged in 1926, was described as the "largest theatre organ in the
12 South"; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1994, the Kentucky's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ Project, Inc.,
14 a not-for-profit, tax-exempt Kentucky corporation consisting of private citizens and
15 representatives of the University of Kentucky and the Lexington Fayette Urban-County
16 Government, was established to renovate and reinstall the three-manual fourteen-rank
17 (sets of pipes) theatre organ in the Kentucky Theatre; and

18 WHEREAS, on June 25, 1999, the National Trust for Historic Preservation
19 designated the Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ as an Official
20 Project of "Save America's Treasures"; and

21 WHEREAS, upon completion of the restoration of the organ and its reinstallation in
22 the Kentucky Theatre, the glorious, majestic sounds of the most powerful musical
23 instrument ever produced will once again thrill Kentuckians in such events as daily mini-
24 concerts between movies, an annual concert subscription series, and educational
25 curriculum programs with area schools and universities;

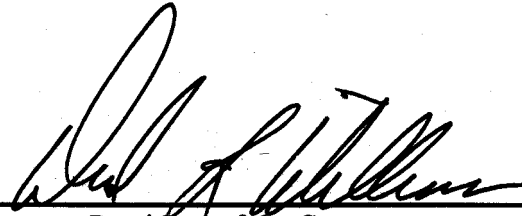
1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*


3 SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ

4 AS FOLLOWS:

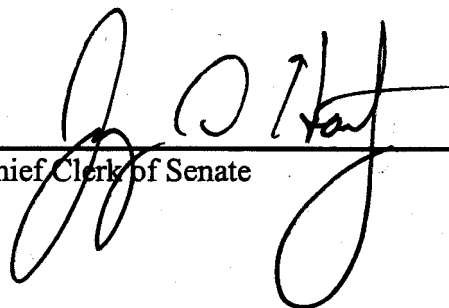
5 *The Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ located in Lexington is*
6 *the official theatre pipe organ of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*



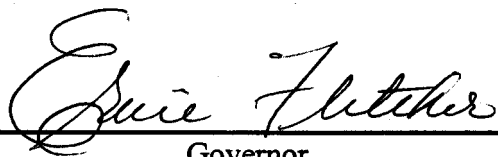
President of the Senate



Speaker-House of Representatives

Attest: 

Chief Clerk of Senate

Approved 

Governor

Date 